

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 3, 5, and 7 to remove the multiple dependencies. Applicant has added new claims 9-14 to describe subject matter previously described in multiple dependent format. No new matter is added by these amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Applicant respectfully requests entry of these amendments.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an interview with Applicant's representatives, either in person or by telephone, would expedite prosecution of this application, we would welcome such an opportunity.

Applicant has calculated the fees due in this application based on the entry of this Preliminary Amendment. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicant and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge or credit any such variance to the Undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

By: 

James B. Arpin
Registration No. 33,470

Dated: January 30, 2004

Baker Botts L.L.P.
The Warner; Suite 1300
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2400
(202) 639-7700 (telephone)
(202) 639-7890 (facsimile)

JBA/dh